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**MAYOR KISS STATEMENT ON PHOENIX HOUSE  
May 18, 2010**

At Monday's City Council meeting, the Council authorized a proposed settlement of the Act 250 proceeding involving the Phoenix House and Burlington Housing Authority. This settlement was pursued and recommended by the Administration. Thanks to the efforts of the City Attorney's office and representatives of BHA and Phoenix House, I am pleased that the City has brought this situation to a prompt and satisfactory resolution.

The settlement requires the City to withdraw the Motion to Alter the Act 250 permit granted to BHA and Phoenix House, and establishes a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding several elements of the program. The MOU covers program eligibility, program operations, and discharge notification procedures. Among these elements is a preference for Burlington residents. In addition, the MOU covers a process going forward that includes a Burlington stakeholder advisory group for the Phoenix House as the program is developed and, once it is up and running, continues with an advisory group on an ongoing basis. Engagement with the community is essential as the project moves forward.

Almost all of the elements of settlement of the Act 250 proceeding had been proposed by the Phoenix House in previous discussions of the project. The settlement incorporates these elements into a written agreement. Most importantly, it removes any doubt that this project will and should move forward.

The need in Burlington for transitional housing, as it is for many other communities across Vermont, is critical. Not only will the residents of Phoenix House be transitioning into the community from the Correctional system, they will also be in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Without these services, many people in recovery are left with no choice but to return to unsupervised housing in the community, a result that all too often undermines their ability to succeed. Failure to succeed has personal consequences and it has a serious impact on family, friends, and the greater community.

As I have said all along, this project is a benefit to Burlington. I look forward to working with BHA and Phoenix House as they develop the best possible program for the community.

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